

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-21 are pending. Reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. As a preliminary matter, Applicants' representative would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone conversation conducted July 1, 2010, and the interview conducted July 8, 2010.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 4-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner asserts that there is no "readily apparent support" for the limitation "building a member definition comprising, a private key of the private key pair for use in encrypting the document." In response, Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to paragraph [0021] of the specification, which states that the encryption may be accomplished "by associating a member definition with a pair of encryption keys (e.g. public and private keys), as is understood in the art, and one of the keys could be placed in the member definition 14." Paragraph [0027] goes on to state that "the member definition may contain a private key for use in encrypting one or more data portions 16 . . . of the document 10." Therefore, the combination of paragraphs [0021] and [0026] provide readily apparent support for the subject limitation and Applicants therefore respectfully request that the subject rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1 and 4-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed subject matter is directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, Applicants have amended the claims such that they now comply in all respects with 35 U.S.C. §101, and therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 4-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,787,175 ("Carter") in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2006/0173999 ("Rider") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,017,183 to Frey et al. ("Frey"). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the

Appl. No. 10/734,935

Response Accompanying RCE

claims on the grounds that the combination of references is defective in establishing a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to all of the claims.

In particular, claim 1 requires, *inter alia*:

building a member definition comprising a member identifier, an access control list comprising a list of access rights of the user, a private key of a key pair for use in encrypting the document, and a digital signature, and associating the member definition with the user;[and]

denying access to the second data portion in accordance with the access right, wherein the denying access comprises at least one of logging information regarding the denial of access, and notifying security personnel regarding the denial of access.

The cited combination is devoid of any teaching of the foregoing elements. With regard to the first element noted above, the Examiner concedes that Carter and Rider fail to teach an ACL, for which Frey is cited. However, neither of the elements noted by the Examiner as reading on the claimed ACL (i.e., the ACL sync map 438 and the ACL 144) comprise a list of access rights of the user, as recited in claim 1. On the contrary, the ACL 144 is described by Frey, at column 3, lines 63-66, as comprising “for each external object, a list of the portal users and portal groups that may access the object.” Therefore, unlike the claimed ACL, which is associated with a particular user and specifies the access rights of that user, the ACL described by Frey is associated with an object and compress a list of users that may access the object.

Additionally, with regard to the second element noted above, none of the references disclose wherein the denying access comprises logging information and/or notifying security personnel regarding the denial of access to the second data portion.

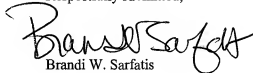
In view of all of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited combination fails to teach or suggest the invention as recited in claim 1; therefore, the rejection is not supported by the cited combination and should be withdrawn. Claims 11 and 21 include limitations similar to those of claim 1 and are therefore also deemed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons presented above. Claims 4-10 and 12-20 depend from and further limit claims 1 and 11 and therefore are deemed to be in condition for allowance for at least that reason.

Appl. No. 10/734,935
Response Accompanying RCE

Conclusion

It is clear from all of the foregoing that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and prompt notification to that effect is therefore respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers provided below if further discussion is required.

Respectfully submitted,

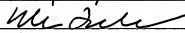


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed with
the United States Patent and Trademark Office via EFS-Web
on the following date.

Date: July 12, 2010

Ellen Lovelace